

**MINUTES**  
**MICHIGAN STATE TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION MEETING**  
**November 29, 2001**  
**Lansing, Michigan**

Meeting noticed in accordance with Open Meetings Act, Public Act 267 of 1976.

Present:     Ted Wahby, Vice Chairman  
              Lowell Jackson, Commissioner  
              John Garside, Commissioner  
              Brian Larche, Commissioner

              Charles Krupka, Commission Advisor  
              Jerry Jones, Commission Auditor  
              Vickie Plummer, Executive Secretary  
              Pat Isom, Assistant Attorney General  
              Greg Rosine, Director  
              Barb Hayes, Chief Administrative Officer  
              Larry Tibbits, Chief Operations Officer  
              Philip Kazmierski, Bureau of Urban and Public Transportation  
              William Gehman, Bureau of Aeronautics  
              Wayne Niles, Bureau of Finance and Administration  
              Gary D. Taylor, Bureau of Highway Technical Services  
              Louis Lambert, Bureau of Transportation Planning

Absent:     Barton LaBelle, Chairman  
              Betty Jean Awrey, Commissioner

A list of those people who attended the meeting is attached to the official minutes.

Vice Chairman Wahby called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. in the Bureau of Aeronautics Auditorium, Lansing, Michigan.

**COMMISSION BUSINESS**

**Commission Minutes**

It was moved by Commissioner Garside, with support from Commissioner Jackson, to approve the minutes of October 25, 2001, as submitted. The motion carried on a unanimous voice vote.

## **OVERSIGHT**

### **Commission/State Administrative Board Contracts and Agreements (Exhibit A)**

Charles Krupka, Commission Advisor, reported that the last paragraph of Item No. 2 of Exhibit A has been deleted, and that approval of Item No. 9 is subject to completion of the internal review process.

It was moved by Commissioner Jackson, with support from Commissioner Garside, to grant approval to the Department to proceed with the contract process. The motion carried on a unanimous voice vote.

### **Bid Letting Pre-Approvals (Exhibit A-1)**

It was moved by Commissioner Jackson, with support from Commissioner Larche, to grant approval to the Department to proceed with the contract process. The motion carried on a unanimous voice vote.

### **Contract Adjustments**

Jim Culp, Construction and Technology Division, Bureau of Highway Technical Services, reported on the contract extras and overruns, Exhibit B.

It was moved by Commissioner Garside, with support from Commissioner Jackson, to approve the contract adjustments. The motion carried on a unanimous voice vote.

## **PRESENTATIONS**

### **Director's Report**

Director Rosine distributed a copy of Executive Order No. 2001-9 which was issued by Governor Engler and provides for significant reductions in transportation revenues affecting Department programs, local road agency programs, and transit organizations.

The Director reported that diamond grinding on I-275 has been completed and noise readings have been done showing an average noise reduction of 5.4 decibels. The significant noise reduction ensures federal participation for the cost of this project.

A proposal was made to the City of Ferndale, by the Department, to increase the scope of a project on Woodward Avenue to make the area aesthetically pleasing. The Metro Region Office staff will continue to work with the local community on this issue.

On November 2, 2001, the bid letting process for construction contracts was done successfully using the electronic bidding process; paper bids are still required at this time but the goal is to transition to full electronic bidding using the internet.

Congress has not yet passed a 2002 budget which has delayed the Department's process to develop capital contracts for transit agencies.

The State of Michigan, through legislation, has committed to funding a portion of the effort to establish a new lock at Sault Ste. Marie to accommodate larger ships. Congress has agreed to provide long-term funding to the State of Michigan with a zero-percent interest rate. Congress also appropriated \$3 million towards the construction of the lock, which may begin as early as the summer of 2002.

Vice Chairman Wahby introduced and welcomed Michele Klein, the new executive management assistant for the Office of Commission Audits.

The Vice Chairman also noted that a state-wide study of the internal audit was recently completed by Plante & Moran for the Department of Management and Budget. He was pleased to note that Plante & Moran reported that the Office of Commission Audits is performing exceptionally well in a number of the areas accessed, and congratulated Jerry Jones, Commission Auditor, and his staff.

Director Rosine also reported on a reorganization within the Department; Tom Maki will be the director of Strategic Planning Initiatives and Larry Tibbits will be the new chief operations officer.

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Larry Shoup, on behalf of the citizens of Farmington Hills who live near I-275, applauded the Department and the Commission for their good faith effort to improve the quality of life of the residents by diamond grinding I-275. Director Rosine provided Mr. Shoup with a copy of the collected data to share with other citizens in the area. Mr. Shoup had questions regarding the 5.4 reduction in noise levels and skid resistance measurements which Director Rosine responded to. The Department will monitor this section of roadway yearly for skid resistance factors.

Mr. Shoup asked when an update to the statewide noise wall policy could be expected. Charlie Krupka responded that the Commission will be reviewing the noise abatement issue over the next several months, but that it may be some time before a noise abatement policy is actually finalized. In response to a question from Mr. Shoup, the Director noted that when the policy was before the Commission for review, it would be so noted on the agenda.

Vice Chairman Wahby stated that he would like to see the sound wall policy addressed in the near future, and expressed concern regarding citizens living near I-94 in southeast Michigan. Commissioner Jackson commented that the language in a policy should not be too extensive and he would also like to see this issue addressed in the near future. He agreed with Vice Chairman Wahby that there are other areas with more significant needs for noise abatement than I-275.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Vice Chairman Wahby adjourned the meeting at 9:45 a.m.

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Commission Advisor